official and 4 non-official members. During the past year six regulations were passed.

I. To regulate the possession and use of dynamite (provisional)

II. To regulate printing-presses

III. To provide for the administration of certain Hindu Religious Endowments

IV. To provide for the prevention of cruelty to animals

V. To regulate the possession and use of explosives (superseding I of 1079) and

VI. The Nayar Brigade Regulation.

A private society for the prevention of cruelty to animals has been started in Trivandrum, to help in the working of Regulation IV of 1079, and I trust that this example will be followed in other parts of the country.

6. **Police.** The strength of the Police was 1743 men. The proportion of policemen to area and population was 1 to 4·9 square miles and 1 to 2,071 of the population respectively. 4,647 cases were reported during the year, of which 1,771 were referred as false. Of the 2,848 cases charged 2,392 ended in conviction. The revival of the old system of village watchmen attracted my notice during my tour in South Travancore. The Acting Superintendent of Police has lately sent in a scheme and it is the intention of Government to consider it in connection with allotting viruthi lands for Munnila or village service. The question of effectually guarding the southern frontier against the frequently recurring inroads of Maravas is also engaging the attention of Government.

7. **Criminal Courts.** The work of the Criminal Courts was considerable during the past year. 18,346 cases were taken up by the Magistracy. The increase in offences under the Penal Code occurred mainly in the compoundible petty offences of criminal force and assault. The Sessions Courts tried and disposed of 132 cases affecting 357 persons.

8. **Jails.** The number of admissions into the Central Jail, Trivandrum, was 649, of whom 520 were convicts. The health of the prisoners was satisfactory. The extensions to the work-shop and the construction of solitary cells were completed during the year. With a well organised and well equipped institution like this in the capital, Government resolved that in the interests of discipline prisoners under sentence of imprisonment for 3 months and above should be sent to the Central Jail from the District Jails. Among the other improvements made during the year may be mentioned the abolition in the early part of the year of the system of executions in mofussil stations in exposed localities and later on arranging for the carrying out of all executions at Trivandrum within the premises of the Central Jail. With this the last remnant of the old system of conducting executions in public and marching the condemned man to the scene with all publicity and decoration and the other ceremonies and observances connected with executions were done away with. The use of fetters for the convicts has been discontinued except as matter of jail punishment. The scale of diet for prisoners in the District Jails and police lock-ups was raised from $2\frac{1}{2}$ chuckrams to $3\frac{1}{2}$ chuckrams.

9. **Civil Courts.** The original litigation of the State rose from 35,613 to 40,589. The increase was almost entirely in the file of the Munsiffs' Courts. The disposals of the Munsiffs aggregated 40,545 suits. The number of appeals was 3,077. There were pending at the close of the year 9,613 original suits and 1,554 appeals making a total of 11,167 suits.

The introduction of Court Fee Stamps has been recently sanctioned. This desirable reform became imperative owing to the abolition of the Civil Court treasuries.

10. **Registration.** The number of instruments presented for registration exceeded 1,80,000, shewing an increase of 10,306 over the preceding year. It is satisfactory to note that in spite of the large number of instruments registered as many as 98·7 per cent were registered on the day of presentation.

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